

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 7-19 are pending in this application. All claims were rejected. No claims were amended or cancelled herein. Reconsideration of the rejections of all pending claims is requested.

I. **Rejection of Claims 1-3, and 7-17 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)**

Claims 1-3, and 7-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Davidson (U.S. 5,639,163) in view of Deng (U.S. 6,911,861).

CLAIM 1

Claim 1, as amended herein, is printed as follows for convenience:

An integrated circuit, comprising:
a number of pads;
a constant current source to provide a current;
a thermal diode that receives said current, said thermal diode being coupled between first and second ones of said pads; and
an analog to digital converter to i) receive a forward bias voltage of the thermal diode, and ii) output a digital representation of the forward bias voltage;

wherein a third one of said pads is provided to receive a reference current, said third pad being coupled to an input of said constant current source, said reference current serving to control the constant current source.

Some portions of claim 1 that are not disclosed by either Davidson or Deng, or their combination, have been printed in bold type.

Neither Davidson nor Deng disclose, "wherein a third one of said pads is provided to receive a reference current, said third pad being coupled to an input of

said constant current source, said reference current serving to control the constant current source” as claimed in claim 1. The office action states that this element is described in the prior art of Deng and that it would be obvious to combine Deng with Davidson. The applicants argue that such a combination would not work and is therefore improper. Furthermore, the applicants contend that neither Davidson, nor Deng, nor their combination disclose all the elements of claim 1.

The prior art circuit disclosed in Deng is related to a current source, wherein the current is controlled by a voltage VBG. The prior art circuit of Deng outputs a reference current based on an input voltage. Accordingly, Deng receives a reference voltage and outputs a current based on the voltage. Claim 1, on the other hand, recites receiving a reference current, not a reference voltage, and outputting a constant current based on the reference current. Thus, neither Davidson, Deng, nor their combination, disclose all the elements of claim 1 and cannot render claim 1 obvious.

In addition to the foregoing, there is no description provided in the office action as to how the prior art circuit of Deng can be added to the circuit of Davison so that Davidson could receive the reference current and the reference current could serve to control the constant current source of Davidson. According to MPEP §706.02(j)(C), the Examiner should set forth the proposed modification of the applied references necessary to arrive at the claimed subject matter. The description in the office action does not provide any explanation as to how these references can be combined in order to render claim 1 obvious.

Based on the foregoing, the applicants contend that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is not proper and request reconsideration of the rejection.

CLAIMS 2 AND 3

Claims 2 and 3 are dependent on claim 1 and are deemed allowable by way of their dependence and for other reasons. Accordingly, the applicants request reconsideration of the rejections.

CLAIM 7

Claim 7, as amended herein, is printed as follows for convenience:

An integrated circuit, comprising:

a constant current source to provide first and second currents of different magnitudes;

first and second thermal diodes that respectively receive said first and second currents;

a comparator to receive forward bias voltages of each of the thermal diodes, to compare the forward bias voltages, and to output a voltage difference indicative of a temperature of the integrated circuit; and

a pad to receive a reference current, said pad being coupled to an input of said constant current source, said reference current serving to control the constant current source.

Some portions of claim 7 that are not disclosed by either Davidson or Deng, or their combination, have been printed in bold type.

Claim 7 was rejected based on the same grounds as the rejection of claim 1. Accordingly, the applicants incorporate the rebuttal to the rejection of claim 1 into this rebuttal of the rejection of claim 7. More specifically and as stated above, Deng discloses a voltage that controls a reference current. Claim 7, on the other hand, recites a reference current used to control a constant current source. Therefore, the references, taken individually or in combination, do not disclose all the elements of claim 7 and cannot render claim 7 obvious.

Based on the foregoing, the rejection of claim 7 has been overcome and the applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection.

CLAIMS 8-17

Claims 8-17 are dependent on claim 7 and are deemed allowable by way of their dependence and for other reasons. Accordingly, the applicants request reconsideration of the rejections.

II. Rejection of Claims 4 and 19 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 4 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Davidson (U.S. 5,639,163) and Deng (U.S. 6,911,861) in view of Vergis (U.S. 6,453,218).

Claims 4 and 19 are dependent on claims 1 and 7, respectively, and are deemed allowable by way of their dependence and for other reasons. Accordingly, the applicants request reconsideration of the rejections.

III. Rejection of Claim 18 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Davidson (U.S. 5,639,163) and Deng (U.S. 6,911,861) in view of Audy (U.S. 5,195,827).

Claim 18 is dependent on claim 7 and is deemed allowable by way of its dependence and for other reasons. Accordingly, the applicants request reconsideration of the rejection.

In view of the above, all of the pending claims are now believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
KLAAS, LAW, O'MEARA & MALKIN, P.C.

By: /Robert Nelson/
Robert Nelson
Registration No. 37,898
1999 Broadway, Suite 2225
Denver, CO 80202
(303) 298-9888